

(c) the details of the action-plan made by the Air India to fill up the shortage of pilots required for flights services in the new routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Pilots of Air India have joined private airlines for various, reasons including better pay and promotions offered by the private airlines.

(b) Ministry of Civil Aviation has recently conveyed approval for pay and allowances along with the conditions and penalties for Pilots of Air India Limited. Pilots will be paid fixed 70 hours of flying allowance as per rate applicable to individual Pilots, subject to a minimum 40 hours of actual flying. In the event of being grounded due to medical reasons, the applicable flying allowance will be paid on pro-rata basis. Incentive in terms of overtime allowance, has been given to the Pilots, for flying hours exceeding 70 hours in a month. Suitable penal provisions have also been provided, in case a Pilot refuses to undertake any flight after rostering.

(c) In view of the fleet augmentation, addition of new sectors and also on account of natural wastage and attrition in the category of Pilots, a recruitment exercise was carried out by Air India in 2015 and a total 78 type rated candidates have been inducted. In addition to the above, another advertisement was issued by Air India on 07.08.2015 for Trainee Pilots i.e. Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) Holders, and recruitment exercise was completed on 17.12.2015 in which 71 candidates have been empanelled. Air India has carried out another recruitment exercise for filling up of 80 posts of Trainee Pilots from amongst the permanent serving employees of Air India, who are CPL Holders.

Abolition of 5/20 Rule

1125. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is contemplating abolition of 5/20 Rule for domestic airlines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State run airlines Air India is also in favour of scrapping of this condition which is lying as a blockade to private airlines from entering into International business;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No such decision has been taken so far.

(b) and (c) Air India has not offered any views on the proposal on 5/20 in the Draft Civil Aviation Policy.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Strike by ground staff at Chennai airport

1126. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that strike by airport ground staff holds up international flights in Chennai airport, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has sought any clarification from the service providers for the reason for the strike and any commitment has been obtained from them to prevent such strikes in future, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Arrival/departure of the following 5 flights were delayed due to strike in Chennai airport in December, 2015:

| Date | Flight No. | STNSTD |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 12 Dec.,15 | LH 758 | 2359/0150 |
| 12 Dec., 15 | CX 632 | 0020/0205 |
| 12 Dec.,15 | GF 069 | 0320/0410 |
| 12 Dec.,15 | WY 252 | 0645/0735 |
| 14 Dec., 15 | WY 252 | 0645/0735 |

(b) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has sought clarifications from the concerned agency and directed them to take necessary action to prevent such strikes in future'. During the strike period *i.e.* from 11th to 14th December, 2015 by the Cargo Section of the Ground Handling Agency (GHA) workers, the agency was served with a show cause notice by the Cargo Department. Subsequently, a meeting was held in the office of the Airport Director and a commitment was taken from the GHA for avoidance of such occurrences in future. AAI has also prepared a contingency plan to ensure seamless operations, in case of recurrence of such strikes in future.